



Dealer News

August 2006

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Published by:

CPT Rob Fortune

FROM THE COMMANDER...

Dealer Family and Friends:

August has come and gone and the Dealers continue their march forward here on the Euphrates River in Iraq.

The battalion began the month dealing with the aftermath of the "Battle of Musayyib" by bringing aid to the city in the form of food, water and rebuilding. We provided more than 1,000 meals, spent over \$100,000 to repair damaged infrastructure and paid out almost \$50,000 in damage claims from the local residents. Dogg was at the forefront of these operations and they did an extraordinary job in the fight and in the rebuilding that followed. These acts of generosity help prove to the people that we truly care about their well-being and are working for a brighter future for Iraq.

We have also continued to shape the area in which we operate, with Eliminator constructing a barrier in the desert to prevent insurgent movement, Carnivore, Archangel and the Scouts helping in the demolition of canal crossings that the insurgents were using to set IEDs on our routes, and Hellcat and Fury bringing containerized living to the

FOB. Fury also helped construct two new checkpoints for Iraqi Police in Archangel's area as we continue to prepare for the opening of the Jurf as Sakhr Iraqi Police Station scheduled to be completed in September.

Currently we have seen great momentum in our area as the Iraqi Army battalion that lives next to us has assumed responsibility for some of the area previously assigned to Bushmaster. This has allowed us to refocus elements of Bushmaster to concentrate on securing a route in the desert to our west. Bushmaster also has the honor of providing a platoon to the Division for an air assault-capable quick reaction force. LT Jackson and SFC Doll's platoon is now at Taji, north of Baghdad, fulfilling that role and will return to Iskan in October. Other operational requirements has seen us attach Team Archangel and its Fury support slice to 2-8 Infantry for a week or two -- I am sure you will read of their exploits in the papers. Look for them to be back at FOB Iskan and tying up the phone lines soon.

The FOB continues to improve and I am pleased to announce that nearly 500 Dealers now reside in containerized living. We continue to construct Living

Support Areas and will move Bushmaster from the Russian Village into cans in the coming weeks.

The R&R program is nearly complete with our last Soldiers now returning. During my R&R this past month, I had a great opportunity on the 7th of August to talk with Dealer families at Fort Hood and to provide a "Report from the Front." As always, our families remain steadfast during this deployment, maintaining things at home so that our Dealers can focus on the mission. I want to thank so many of you for coming out to show your support and to share your thoughts and concerns. I would also like to extend special thanks to those families who traveled long distances to be with us that evening. Your efforts to support your Soldier and the unit are very much appreciated.

We are reminded all too often of the cost of our campaign here in Iraq. Unfortunately the battalion suffered the loss of SPC James Arellano from Bushmaster on the 17th of August in Abu Shamsi. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Jaime and his family. His squad, platoon, company and battalion mourn his loss and miss his presence. The Dealers' thoughts and prayers also go out to PFC Corey Thorne of Fury Company whose husband was killed in action in late August. He was serving as a cavalry scout in 1-10 Cavalry at FOB Falcon in southern Baghdad. She is currently at home in Iowa.

I know that excitement is building for the end of this

deployment. I ask for your patience as the Dealers continue to focus on the tasks at hand. We have such great work left to do, and with each passing day, less time to achieve these objectives. As information concerning redeployment solidifies, we will provide you with specifics as soon as they are releasable. Remember that dates and times will likely change several times. Updates will be provided through the rear detachment and family readiness group channels, so please ensure that your contact information has been given to these individuals. It is essential that your information be updated and accurate so that we can get all the pertinent information to you as plans for the coming months mature.

Until next month, keep us in your prayers and thoughts. Please continue to send us mail and good wishes.

LTC Pat Donahoe
Dealer 6

Dealers...Deeds...Mesopotamia
...the 67th!!

Patrick.donahoe@us.army.mil

HELLCAT NEWS

Greetings from FOB Iskandariyah. I am CPT Tony Kron the new commander of Headquarters Company. CPT Rob Perry and I changed command on the 22nd of August in a ceremony here on FOB ISKAN. My wife Desiree and I come to you from A/1-67

where I served as the commander since January. Prior to that I was the Planner in the S-3 shop and a member of Headquarters for over 18 months. I wanted to say that is an honor and privilege for Desiree and me to be back here with you as a Hellcat after our time with the Assassins. It is a privilege and honor to get to serve with the great men of the Hellcats and I look forward to our time together.

As we complete the 9th month of our deployment here in Iraq, we continue to see great improvement in the quality of life here on the FOB and our soldiers continue their tireless efforts in sector. This month we moved more than 350 more people out of tents and into trailers. This means more than half of the battalion is now out of the tents and into a trailer or "can". A new laundry facility was built that will lead to the building of the new support area where the new chapel and PX will move to as we continue to get rid of the old tents and transition living to the trailers. In short, life on the FOB continues to get better every day. KBR has done an outstanding job of getting the construction ahead of schedule so that our soldiers can have better quality of life here on the FOB.

The scouts and mortars were very busy this month conducting security operations on the northern flank of the battalion's area of operations. Their efforts allow the battalion to continue to seal Jurf as Sahkr off from the west and deny insurgent activity from up north to filter into our area. The mortars have now moved a gun

section to the Island Patrol Base run by Carnivore to provide more fire support to the northern portion of the area. It was a challenge in term of getting the communication links established, but the mortar platoon kept at it and figured out the solution to getting the link established.

The medics continue to train soldiers from across the battalion on life saving techniques. They have trained over 75% of the battalion as combat lifesavers to enhance the medical coverage across the battalion. They continue this endeavor with a goal of having every person in the battalion trained.

The staff sections continue to run the battalion. They are some of the hardest working people here on the FOB. Without them, nothing in the battalion would happen. They track all movement, write the orders, plan operations, and order the supplies necessary to make all things operate. They work hard and do a great job at what they do.

We sent the last of our personnel on mid-tour leave this month. I hope that as these past few months have gone by that you enjoyed the time you got to spend with your soldier. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

We would like to congratulate SSG Timothy Hatley from the Commo Section on his promotion the Sergeant First Class effective 01 September 2006. We would also like to congratulate the following soldiers on their promotion from Private First Class to Specialist: PFC John

Villarreal from the Scouts and PFC Scott Meza from the FSE.

Again, I would like to close by saying it is good to be back in the company. I look forward to the coming time together as we prepare for the next phase of this operation and I look forward to meeting y'all when we get home.

CPT Tony Kron
Hellcat 6



SSG Tagami and the mortars work on digital connectivity from "The Island" to the FOB



Scouts on the move!!



CPT Kron and CPT Perry in the Change of Command Ceremony



The Staff training new Dealers during "School of the Dealer"

ARCHANGEL NEWS

Dear Wives and Families of the Archangels,

I hope that this letter finds all of you well. These months in Iraq are always eventful; the Jurf Iraqi Police Station is complete and will start being filled with Iraqi police within the next couple of weeks. This is a huge milestone for the people of Jurf as Sakhr and the Dealer Battalion, because it brings us even closer to the point when the Iraqis take over their own security. Two new Iraqi Check Points were also established in the Archangel Area of Operation. The soldiers are continuing their great work and look forward to their Iraqi counterparts taking over.

At this point whether you are in Texas or Iraq I think we are all just waiting for the hot weather to begin cooling off and get well below the 100 degree mark. The weather here has been steady between 115 and 120 degrees on a daily basis. There are days when the humidity is quite unbearable because of our close proximity to the Euphrates River. But it

is something that all of us have become accustomed too.

I am looking forward to meeting all of the families when we return to Fort Hood. It will be a fast and furious few months when we get back considering many of us will be going in different directions. Some will be heading to Fort Carson, Colorado, other will PCS to a different duty stations and some will move to another unit on Fort Hood. What ever you and your spouse decided, I wish you nothing but the best. I'm sure the decision was difficult to make but in the end it will work out. The Army and our country are asking a lot from the families, but in due time this tempo will quiet down. Take care of yourself, and God Bless.

CPT Bradley Maroyka
Archangel 6

BUSHMASTER NEWS



Dear Friends and Family of the
Bushmasters,

Greetings from
beautiful FOB Iskandariyah! It
was great coming back to the
company after taking my block
leave last month. After

spending a very relaxing two
weeks in Kansas City, I was
anxious to get back and catch
up with the company.

August brings us both
happiness and sadness as we
complete the 9th month of our
deployment. As most of you
probably know, SPC Arellano
was taken from us on the 17th
of this month. James was
killed by an improvised
explosive device (road side
bomb) north of our base along
Route Martina. SPC Arellano
was an automatic rifleman in
2nd squad, 3rd platoon and
arrived in Bravo Company in
March as an individual
replacement. He will forever
be remembered for his smile,
his hard work and his time
spent working his homemade
punching bag behind the
barracks. Our thoughts and
prayers go out to him, his wife
Jaime, and his family.
Although we know he is in a
better place, we all miss him
deeply.

The month of August
has also brought us plenty of
opportunities to smile and
celebrate too. We had a lot of
promotions over the past month
and I would like to congratulate
the following soldiers for
advancing to the next rank:
SSG Dunne, SSG Bueche, CPL
Mulka, SPC Weinthal, SPC
Malmquist, SPC Drumheller
and SPC Amos. The
promotion of these soldiers
reflects the hard work that they
have done over the past months
and even years.
Congratulations to all!

I would also like to
congratulate the following
soldiers for celebrating
birthdays in August: SPC
Sloan, PFC Bogan, SPC

Drumheller, SPC Hartson, SGT
Wegscheider, PFC Chambers,
SFC Doll, SGT Aguero, SPC
Brazel, and SSG Mericle.

Congratulations are also
in order for the following
soldiers and their spouses for
celebrating wedding
anniversaries this month: SPC
Allen, SGT Durham, PFC
Spangler, SGT Berry, SSG
Williams, PFC Martinez, L.,
and SGT Helton. We wish
them many more years of
happiness.

Currently, the company
is in another period of
transition, the 2nd battalion, 4th
brigade, 8th Iraqi Division is
taking responsibility for our
battlespace in the coming
weeks and we will find
ourselves moving again. We
will be occupying a battlespace
west of the Euphrates and will
have the responsibility for
securing a major route in our
battalion's area of operation.
We will continue to live here at
FOB Iskandariyah, we will just
be operating in a new area.
The move is welcome because
it continues to show the Iraqi
Army taking the lead here in
Iraq. They continue to
demonstrate their potential for
increased responsibility and
service. They are this nation's
future and we are proud to see
them step forward to accept the
challenge.

In addition to the
change of battlespace, we are
losing most of 2nd platoon this
week. 27 personnel from 2nd
platoon will be moving to
Camp Taji (Located just north
of Baghdad) to serve as the
4ID's Division Ready Reaction
Force (DRRF). The soldiers in
the DRRF are on call 24/7 to
respond to immediate threats in

the Division AO. This is a temporary tasking that will end sometime in mid October. Following the tasking, 2nd platoon will move back here to FOB Iskandariyah and be integrated back into company operations.

I know that a hot topic on everyone's mind right now is redeployment. Although that time is still months away, I want to take this time to share with you that my intent over the next few months is to provide you with the most up to date information in order to alleviate any 'rumors' that you might be hearing back at Ft. Hood. As soon as I get information that affects you and your families I will send it out via the FRG.

For those of you who had loved ones deploy with 4ID for OIF 1, the plan for our arrival is very similar. We will fly to Ft Hood, turn in our weapons/sensitive items and move to some form of welcome home celebration. There will probably be a quick welcome home message from a key speaker and then your soldiers will be released on a four day pass. The Division did a good job with this last time and I expect our homecoming to be the same. It only took 2-3 hours from the time we landed at Ft Hood till we were released to our families on pass.

I don't know if this information is anything different than what you have heard through the rumor mill, but I hope it gives you an idea of what to expect. Our focus continues to be first and foremost on the mission at hand. We still have a long way

to go and a lot of work to continue before we transition with the next unit. Our duty and obligation is to turn this area over better than how we received it.

Please contact me directly if you have any immediate questions or concerns. I will not be able to answer any questions about specific dates, times and I cannot tell you at this point what role your soldier will have in the redeployment. Your soldier will be briefed on where they will fall as part of the redeployment schedule once final decisions have been made.

And remember, everything is subject to change! The situation here in Iraq will dictate everything. The unit will let you know if anything changes.

Thank you all for your continued selfless acts of support. Every soldier appreciates the support from the FRG, and the individual contributions from loved ones and friends. Thanks for your continued support and your prayers.

CPT Matt Koehler
Bushmaster 6
matthew.koehler@us.army.mil





LT Owen and SFC Buckley promote SSG Dunne



3rd platoon poses for a group photo



3rd platoon soldiers pose for a photo in the Bushmaster Gym



Soldiers prepare to depart on mid tour leave



Woodward gets a first-class haircut from PVT Archer



SGT Kibala gets really muddy while on patrol



SGT Vacker during a sandstorm

CARNIVORE NEWS

Greetings to the Families and Friends of Team Carnivore:

August brought a general lull in insurgent activity throughout our area of responsibility (AO). However, the enemy continued to probe our defenses launching both real and hoax attacks against our forces. During the initial weeks of this month, we deployed a significant number of dismounted patrols into the region known as Farisiyah. Farisiyah is a sizable swath of land characterized by crisscrossing canals, heavy vegetation and occasional farmlands. Recently, most of the attacks within our AO have been within Farisiyah. Our dismounted patrols moved throughout the area talking to the local population, maintaining general security and searching for indications of insurgent activity. The vast

majority of the local nationals approached during these patrols appreciate the security provided as well as the interest our soldiers show in their lives. Our soldiers are regularly greeted with smiles, offered glasses of hot tea and welcomed into the homes of locals who genuinely understand that we're here to improve their situation.

In addition to these patrols, Carnivore created a serious disruption in the enemy's ability to maneuver and transport supplies when the company destroyed a total of three bridges within Farisiyah. Because of their usefulness to the insurgency, these bridges were identified as key enemy avenues of approach. I'm confident that their destruction represents a serious setback for those individuals within Farisiyah that seek to do harm to our soldiers and the Iraqi security forces.

The highlight of this month was an operation called Farisiyah Roundup. Under the cover of darkness, our soldiers and about 350 soldiers of the Iraqi Army (IA) moved north along the Euphrates River and into Farisiyah in order to conduct the largest, most ambitious clearing operation conducted by this battalion. We supported the Iraqi soldiers as they swept through better than five square kilometers of vegetation searching for known insurgents, weapons, bomb-making material and other indications of insurgent activity. They searched through approximately 80 homes. Additionally, the IA apprehended 56 suspected insurgents. Twelve of these

suspects turned out to be known insurgents. Excellent cooperation between the Iraqi and American units ensured a well-planned and professionally-executed mission. Neither friendly nor enemy units suffered any kind of injuries and the operation took place with minimal inconvenience to the local populace. The leadership of Team Carnivore, as well as of the IA leadership, stands convinced that Farisiyah is significantly safer as a result of the tremendous contributions from both the Iraqi and American forces.

Stellar Soldiers for the month of August include, but are not limited to, the following Carnivores: SPC Constante for his timely spotting of an enemy roadside bomb and stopping his vehicle just inches from the pressure plate trigger; PFC Enos for his early detection of a fire inside his tank; SPC Garza for spotting a flash from an enemy mortar firing position and alerting his platoon seconds before the rounds impacted outside the patrol base; PV2 Lawrence Johnson for continuing to calmly man his gunner position when an IED (improvised explosive device) detonated beneath his vehicle; SGT Marques for maintaining his tank at 100% operational readiness; SPC Sidney for his superior technical knowledge of the new remotely-guided .50 caliber weapon system; SGT Oakes for his successful transition into his position as a dismount team leader; PVT LaFrance for his demonstrated superior ability as an Infantry fighting vehicle driver; and SPC Stemple whose

outstanding leadership has resulted in his referral to attend the E-5 promotion board; SGT Barrett for his proven skills while maintaining the largest tank platoon in the company; SPC James for his proven professionalism and endurance as a dismounted combat medic; and CPL Moyer for his enthusiastic willingness to fill a gunning position with every patrol.

Promotions for the month of August included the following: SPC Rodriguez to Corporal; CPL Freeman to Sergeant; PFC Getchell to Specialist; PV2 Ramos to Private First Class.

In the commander's absence, it is a true privilege to speak to the extended family of Team Carnivore about the accomplishments of our Soldiers. Their stoicism and determination in the face an elusive and constantly active enemy allows me to write this letter with an almost overwhelming sense of pride and confidence. Thank you for the love and support you continue to show for Team Carnivore.

LT DAVE TAYLOR
Carnivore XO

Greetings to all of the friends and loved ones of Carnivore Company:

Finally, we have made it to the third stage of our deployment. The time has arrived for me to go on leave. Seeing that I am the last soldier to go on leave, this means that we are that much closer to returning home. I'm sure you have been given a tentative timeline of our possible return

home this year. The last three months will be some of the most challenging days of our tour here in Iraq. All of our leaders are diligent about encouraging our soldiers to remain focused.

Besides dealing with the incredible heat and many hazards of being here, we have tried to make this year as rewarding as possible. Many of our soldiers have been promoted to the next rank and 90% of the prospective soldiers have become eligible for the combat action or combat infantry badge. That's an outstanding accomplishment and shows that the men of Carnivore have gone above and beyond the call of duty. I will always consider myself to be one of the most fortunate first sergeants in the battalion to be able to work with such brave and professional soldiers. I look forward to seeing your happy faces and thank you again for your continued support and prayers. Wishing you Gods speed.

1SG Charles M. King
Carnivore 7



CPL Hoyt helps to assemble C-4 to destroy a bridge used extensively by insurgents to smuggle contraband and elude capture by coalition and Iraqi security forces.



The promotions of SGT Freeman, SPC Getchell and PFC Ramos were well-deserved.

DOGG NEWS

Hello from the Dogg Pound. August has been a busy month for the men in the Dogg Pound. We have been working very hard to incorporate the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army into our daily operations. We are continuing to train the Iraqi Police on paramilitary tasks and have conducted several joint operations with brilliant success. The local government leaders have been very cooperative since July 22, 2006, and together with Dogg Company, are working to rebuild the damage from the Battle of Mussayib.

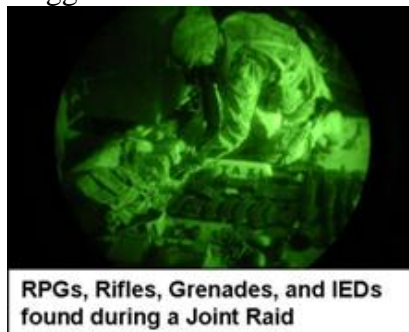
The summer heat is in full effect as the temperature swelters well into the hundreds daily. Your men continue to battle the heat conducting maintenance, FOB security, mounted patrols, and dismounted patrols, with little protection from the sun. The guys have really warmed up to their new duties at the FOB's Entry Control Point.

August was also a bittersweet month as we said goodbye to 1SG Decker and welcomed 1SG Todd. 1SG

Decker cried during his ceremony when he found out he wouldn't be able to take his refrigerator to his new living quarters. Although we all promised never to speak of the event again, I think you all have the right to know. Regardless of 1SG Decker's priorities, he will be truly missed as a member of the Dogg Team. 1SG Todd has already begun to implement some changes around the Dogg Pound.

I am sure you are all still hearing rumors about redeployment; please remember that most of them are rumors. Your soldiers have done great things since they have been in Iraq, things that you can always be proud of, but there is still much to be done. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me here in Iraq and please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

1LT Michael Mignano
Dogg 5



RPGs, Rifles, Grenades, and IEDs found during a Joint Raid



2nd Platoon Battling the "ECP Fire of 2006"



SPC Gore participating in an MEDEVAC exercise

ELIMINATOR NEWS

To the families and friends of the Eliminators:

August continues the fine tradition of Eliminator excellence in AO Dealer. Your soldiers continue to provide the very best support to the Dealer Battalion with our missions on EOD Escort and maintaining the JCC in Karbala. EOD Escort continues to provide the fastest response of any unit on FOB Iskan while responding to any perceived IED threat in our Area of Operations. Each platoon provides this support, and their contributions to EOD security have been recognized by the Battalion and the EOD teams we support. In Karbala the Eliminators were present for a significant event in the development of the province of Karbala. The army and police forces of the province have been conducting independent operations against insurgents in the province. This represents further progress of the province towards independence, and the eventual departure of Coalition Forces. The JCC enables these activities by providing communications and operations support to the province and by

giving the local Iraqis the confidence to operate independently of Coalition Forces.

Meanwhile on FOB Iskan the soldiers of the unit have begun their movement into KBR housing. Each soldier receives ½ of a room with furniture, and individual air conditioners. Force protection is increased as each soldier now lives in rooms surrounded by high concrete wall, and metal walls and ceilings. Currently ½ of our soldiers have made the move from tents to KBR housing. This process will continue into September, and all soldiers will have a room in KBR housing by the middle of September. On the negative side our contract for a satellite internet terminal has expired, and will not be renewed due to poor quality of support from our vendor. The satellite vendor wished for us to pay for repairs to the dish not of our doing, and we made the decision not to pay an additional \$700 for continued service. Soldiers will continue to have available to them the battalion internet service, and this will continue until our departure from FOB ISKAN.

1st and 2nd Platoon. As the heart of company operations, the line platoons continue their outstanding efforts to complete the company goals of providing timely support to battalion operations, and the continuing effort to make independent the province of Karbala. These soldiers put in long hours supporting the battalion on EOD missions which can last up to 48 hours. The officers

and NCOs of the platoons make this happen by ensuring that their soldiers are prepared for every mission, and without this effort we would not be able to help battalion at the level they have come to expect. In Karbala our soldiers spend long hours on guard duty, and with the support of our Iraqi police counterparts they ensure the security of our remote location in that major city. In this they have continued to perform at a high level, and continue to make my job in the city effortless, and for this I cannot thank them enough.

The A&O/HQ platoon has enabled us to conduct outstanding company business. Their tireless support on radio watch and in the running of the TOC has made our CP the number one in the battalion in providing timely and accurate information and support in response to battalion requests. I would like to recognize SGT Gay for his outstanding effort this month in the absence of SFC Thomas. He ensured all battalion activities and requests from the company were taken care of and indicated his superior ability far in excess of what would normally be expected for a soldier of his rank and experience. The A&O section continues to provide support not only to increasing force protection for soldiers in the other companies of the battalion but also for the brigade. A&O soldiers can be found building bunkers, checkpoints, and obstacles over the entire Warhorse Area of Operations.

The mechanics of the Eliminators are tireless in their support for Eliminator

activities, and while we finally let SFC McKee take R&R leave, the impact of his absence has been minimal due to the fine efforts of SGT Logan. He and the rest of the crew continue to make the soldiers' jobs easier by keeping all vehicles running and in good condition. We also welcome SPC Elliot who recently transferred from Alpha company and has been working as hard as the rest of the maintenance team.

CPT James Sturm
Eliminator 6

FURY NEWS

August is in the history books. It was another month of hot weather and a fast-paced optempo, with Fury never missing a beat.

With all three platoons running on all cylinders every day, the company continues to provide 1-67 Armor with the best combat support in the Army every day. The battalion continues to make strides in Iraq because of the quality of support they receive from Fury day in and day out. Our area of operations gets more secure every day, and civil affairs operations are continuing to help rebuild the Iraqi infrastructure and public utilities. At the heart of this lies Fury: keeping the vehicles and weapons operational, the combat support flowing, and providing additional security and support whenever and wherever it is needed.

Besides the dozens and dozens of patrols Distro and Headquarters conduct every month, Fury also participated in other ways during the month of August. From providing security escorts for Civil Affairs to executing traffic control points (TCPs), Fury continues to make itself the most indispensable and most forward-deployed support company in all of Iraq. Even though a lot of these missions occur behind the scenes, 1-67 often takes note of the extra support and never fails to remember why their jobs are made so much easier.

During the month of August, the containerized living quarters were finally put in place, with most of the company being able to move into their new homes. If you remember way back in April, May, and June, Fury conducted patrol after patrol to provide security escorts for KBR moving onto FOB Iskandariyah, and finally the company is starting to reap the benefits of these patrols. The new containers are way better than the dilapidated old tents we had been living in, with each room having its own air conditioner as well as the added security of concrete walls surrounding each small complex. Now, at the end of the long hot work day, Fury's Soldiers can go to a cool home to relax and rejuvenate in. Other improvements are also being made around the FOB, including a new laundry facility, better shower facilities, and air conditioners in the weight room.

Congratulations to SGT Jackson and SPC Rohlfing on

their promotions this month, both were well-earned and we look forward to their continued leadership as they step into their new roles. Also, Fury would like to welcome SGT Slack into the company headquarters. SGT Slack moved over from one of the company's detached combat repair teams (CRTs) to take over the orderly room/command post, and has done an excellent job thus far.

On a much sadder note, our thoughts and prayers go out to PFC Corey Thorne and her family as they grieve the loss of her husband who was deployed to FOB Falcon with 1-10 Cav, 4ID.

Thank you, as always, to the families and friends of all the Fury Soldiers carrying the torch back home while we are away. It is because of your love and dedication that we are able to succeed. Without you we would be nowhere near as good as we are today.

CPT Jason A. Ballard
Fury 6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Tomorrow's Dreams, Today's Trouble

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:34)

Recently I discovered that "redeployment" is a four letter word. Of course, all of us would like nothing better than to be home with our families and enjoying the holidays. The reality is that we are not there yet. Therefore, focusing on

returning home, both for the soldier and the family, can be an exercise in frustration. The days grow longer instead of shorter because more of our time is devoted to thinking about coming home. Now, there is occasionally a day that just will not quit. Like a lingering old horse that should have been put out to pasture, but still is trying to pull the plow, so too are the days that "never end." I remember a few months ago when soldiers were telling me that the days were just flying by. We can return to the quickness of those days by focusing on the things of today and leave the dreams of tomorrow for tomorrow.

CPT (CH) Carl Otis